

What is claimed is:

1. A communication system coupled to a wide area communication network comprising a plurality of network resources, the communication system providing voice and data communications to a plurality of users in an office and comprising:

5 at least a first packet bus coupled to one or more packet-based devices and adapted for transferring packetized data to and from the system;

a plurality of time division multiplex (TDM) buses coupled to one or more telephony devices and selectively coupled to the first packet bus and the wide area communication network;

10 a processor;

wherein the processor selectively controls voice communications from the one or more telephony devices over the TDM buses and packet-based communications over the first packet bus, wherein voice communications that stay in a circuit-switched form in the system occur over one or more of the TDM buses and the wide area communication network, and

15 wherein packet-based communications are selectively coupled to the wide area communication network via the TDM buses.